

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

PATRICK COUNTY WILDFIRE

SITUATION REPORT # 4

1400 Hours April 18, 2006

New Information in Bold Italics

The next Situation Report will be 19 April 2006 at 1500 hours.

SUMMARY

Patrick County and Virginia Department of Forestry resources are fighting a wildfire on Bull Mountain that began on 14 April and has burned over 4000 acres, **destroyed 3 homes, 6 structures, and personal property. The estimated value of lost property is \$500,000.** The fire is being managed utilizing a Unified Command at VDOT's field office on US 57 West of Elamsville.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at Increased Readiness condition.

State of Emergency: On April 15, 2006, Governor Timothy M. Kaine declared a state of emergency to exist for Patrick County to assist in responding to this wildfire. Governor Kaine directed appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of the state government to respond to assist in Patrick County to alleviate adverse conditions created by the wildfire.

Federal Declaration: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 3, advised that they received approval for a Fire Management Assistance Grant. Declaration number 2637.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared: Patrick County declared a local emergency on April 15, 2006.

Schools: *Patrick County schools are expected to reopen Wednesday 19 April.*

WEATHER

Forecast: Patrick County: *NWS Blacksburg- Tuesday 18 April – Mostly sunny with high temperatures in the 70s with light and variable winds. Tuesday Night – Mostly clear with low temperatures in the low 40s with light and variable winds. Wednesday 19 April – Mostly sunny with high temperatures in the mid 70s with light and variable winds becoming Southwest around 10 MPH in the afternoon.*

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison: VDEM Local Support Services Division Region Six Coordinator is **now on scene.**

Legislative Liaison: *Distributing situation reports to legislators in affected localities and to Congressman Boucher's office.*

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 4 – Firefighting: Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)

The VDOF has an Incident Management Team, **60** personnel, three bulldozers and two helicopters assisting with fire suppression. **Fire contained at 65 to 70 percent.** The fire on Bull Mountain destroyed at least three homes, forcing the evacuation of 40 families. VDOF advised they have 1 Federal Hot Shot team, (17 personnel), and 1 Type II team, (18 personnel), on scene assisting with fire suppression. Resource Advisor from FEMA is on scene completing field work for the FEMA request. Va.

Dept. of Fire Programs Division 6 Chief providing Mobile Incident Support. ***VDOF is utilizing 52 cabins at the VA. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation's Fairystone State Park facility as shelters for VDOF personnel. VDOF Control Objectives: Provide safety of firefighters and the public as the number one priority; Keep fire southwest of Pole Bridge Road and Foley Ridge Development; Keep fire north of Route 687 and south of Route 57; and Keep fire northeast of Route 688.***

Lee County fire is contained at 100 percent.

ESF 13 - Public Safety & Security:

Virginia Department of Military Affairs/National Guard (VDMA/VNG)

Governor Kaine authorized mobilization of 46 National Guard soldiers to assist Patrick County and VDOF with fire suppression activities and evacuation. ***The National Guard personnel were released from state active duty at approximately 1200 hours 18 April.***

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation:

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

VDOT is assisting with road closures as requested by the Incident Management Team and the VDOT Residency Shop in Stuart, Virginia is being utilized as the Incident Command Post.

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support:

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VEOC is coordinating requests for assistance from the locality and state agencies. ***Verizon supplied a communication tower and telephones at the Incident Command (IC) post.***

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Patrick County evacuees are returning to their homes. Smith River Rescue Squad building is on stand by to reopen as a shelter for evacuees. Currently 2 personnel from the American Red Cross and 5 personnel from the Rescue Squad are stationed at this facility. Local and neighboring fire departments include **50** personnel. Patrick County has utilized mutual aid to request firefighting assistance from neighboring Virginia and North Carolina localities.

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